

## Marking Color Codes

-  RED - Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit and Lighting Cables
-  YELLOW - Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum or Gaseous Materials
-  ORANGE - Communications, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit
-  BLUE - Potable Water
-  PURPLE - Reclaimed Water, Irrigation and Slurry lines
-  GREEN - Sewer and Drain Lines
-  PINK - Temporary Survey Markings
-  WHITE - Proposed Excavation

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## Utility Line Marking Information

- Underground utilities may be marked with paint, flags, stakes, or with any combination of these means.
- Utility marks indicate the approximate horizontal location of the underground utility line on the ground to within two feet of either side of the underground utility line.
- Please remember, utilities typically do not mark privately-owned underground lines such as sprinkler systems, private water and sewer service lines or power lines to garages. It is your responsibility to locate these lines or hire someone to locate them for you.

## Miss Utility's Telephone Numbers

Miss Utility———1-800-552-7001

Check Ticket Status——1-800-552-3120

*Miss Utility's Service is Free*

*Miss Utility Provides Emergency Service  
365 Days a Year, 24 Hours a Day*



*For more information contact the  
State Corporation Commission  
Division of Utility and Railroad Safety*

**call:**

1-800-552-7945

**write:**

Damage Prevention Investigator  
Division of Utility and Railroad Safety  
State Corporation Commission  
P.O. Box 1197  
Richmond, Virginia 23218

**via email:**

[vadamageprevention@scc.state.va.us](mailto:vadamageprevention@scc.state.va.us)

**or check out the Web:**

[www.state.va.us/scc/division/urs/index.htm](http://www.state.va.us/scc/division/urs/index.htm)

or

[www.missutilityofvirginia.com](http://www.missutilityofvirginia.com)

This guide should be used for educational purposes only. It is not intended to be an opinion, legal or otherwise, of the State Corporation Commission.



**Virginia** Excavation or Demolition  
A Guide for Safe



Prepared by  
Virginia State Corporation Commission  
Division of Utility and Railroad Safety

July 2003

Please do your part to help protect Virginia's vital underground utility lines from damage. Remember, these lines provide you and your community with essential utility services such as gas, electricity, telephone, water and sewer.

**WHETHER YOUR PROJECT IS BIG OR SMALL, ALWAYS DIG WITH C.A.R.E. IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO AVOID COSTLY MISTAKES, FINES AND EVEN PERSONAL INJURY. BESIDES, IT'S THE LAW!**

## **DIG WITH C.A.R.E. Keep Virginia Safe.**

### **C Call Miss Utility at 1-800-552-7001 before you dig.**

- After you call, Miss Utility informs all member utilities that may have facilities in your proposed area of excavation.

### **A Allow required time for marking.**

- After you contact Miss Utility, wait 48 hours, beginning 7:00 a.m. the next working day (Working days exclude Saturdays, Sundays, and legal state and national holidays) following notice, to allow the utilities to mark their facilities.
- You may begin excavation earlier if Miss Utility informs you that no utility operators will be notified; or
- If you confirm the status of your marking request from Miss Utility's *positive response system* (1-800-552-3120) that all applicable utility operators have either marked their lines, or indicated that the area is clear of their utility, or not in conflict with your work. Miss Utility can provide you with this information via a FAX or other mutually acceptable means of transmitting and receiving the marking status information. However, if you do not have the capabilities to receive the marking status automatically from Miss Utility, you must contact Miss Utility's *positive response system* after waiting 48 hours and before beginning your project.

### **R Respect the marks.**

- Protect and preserve the line-location markings from the time the excavation or demolition begins until they are no longer required for the proper and safe excavation near the utility lines.
- Request remarking at anytime the markings become illegible for any reason.

### **E Excavate carefully.**

- Conduct a site inspection before beginning your project. Look for clear evidence of unmarked utilities. Clear evidence includes, but is not limited to, visual evidence of an unmarked utility line; knowledge of the presence of a utility line; or faded marks from previous markings.
- If clear evidence of an unmarked utility line is identified, contact Miss Utility and notify them. Wait three hours from the time you notified Miss Utility before proceeding (if after three hours, the operator(s) has not responded, you are encouraged to call Miss Utility again).
- Take all reasonable steps to properly protect, support and backfill underground utility lines. When crossing an existing underground utility line, such steps include, but may not be limited to:
  1. Exposing the utility line to its extremities by hand digging;
  2. Not utilizing mechanized equipment within two feet of the extremities of all exposed utility lines; and,
  3. Protecting the exposed utility line from damage.

In addition, for excavations parallel to an existing utility line, such steps include, but may not be limited to, hand digging at reasonable distances along the line of excavation.

- Exercise due care at all times to protect underground utility lines when exposing these lines by hand digging.

### **Also...**

- **EXCAVATION** - means any operation in which earth, rock, or other material in the ground is moved, removed, or otherwise displaced by means of any tools, equipment, or explosives.
- **DEMOLITION** - means any operation by which a structure or mass of material is wrecked, razed, rendered, moved, or removed by means of any tools, equipment, or discharge of explosives which could damage underground utility lines.
- Utility line location markings placed in response to a non-emergency marking request are valid for 15 working days beginning at 7:00 a.m. the next working day after you contact Miss Utility. If your project will take longer than 15 working days to complete, contact Miss Utility 3 working days before the expiration date and request a remarking.
- Utility line location markings placed in response to an emergency are valid until the emergency condition ceases to exist.
- If your project is of sufficient complexity, you may contact Miss Utility and request a meeting with utility operators and/or their locators to discuss the marking of utility lines on the site. After the meeting takes place, and both you and the operator have discussed your project, contact Miss Utility and request the site be marked before excavating.

### **In case of utility line damage:**

- **IF DAMAGE CREATES AN EMERGENCY, TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO SAFEGUARD LIFE, HEALTH AND PROPERTY.**
- **IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE UTILITY OPERATOR IF A DAMAGE, DISLOCATION OR DISTURBANCE OF AN UNDERGROUND UTILITY LINE OCCURS.**